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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA : Acting Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM : Sayre Stevens  
Deputy Director, National Foreign Assessment Center

SUBJECT : White House Request That the Agency Undertake the  
Development of a Strategic Opium Poppy Monitoring  
System

1. Action Requested:

- a. That you approve the Agency undertaking a feasibility study for forecasting the size and location of world-wide poppy cultivation, as recommended in paragraph 5 below.
- b. That you approve and sign the proposed letter to Dr. Peter Bourne, Special Assistant to the President, which is appended as Attachment 1.

2. Background: A letter to you from Dr. Peter Bourne dated 15 September 1977 requested the CIA to undertake the development of a strategic opium poppy monitoring system (Attachment 2). You are aware that this request by the White House represents a culmination of some 18 months of numerous formal and informal meetings between Agency, DEA, and the White House staff to discuss ideas and concepts relevant to improving the USG's strategic intelligence posture on international narcotics matters. Initially, the impetus for such discussions was provided by OMB. In more recent times, the charge has been picked up by Dr. Bourne's staff -- the Office of Drug Abuse Policy in the White House.

3. The focus from the start, as represented in the Interagency Crop Detection Technology Review Committee report (Attachment 3) that Dr. Bourne makes reference to in his letter to you, has been on the applicability of an [ ] approach to monitoring and assessing illicit poppy cultivation on a global scale. In the spring of 1976, the CIA -- principally OGCR and ORD -- submitted a remote sensing concept paper to OMB principals which outlined a proposed development program that would initially be developed

[ ] intelligence data. The concept has been formally reviewed by the above mentioned interagency committee, reporting to Dr. Bourne, with the recommendation that it be approved for funding.

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